

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which after final rejection permits the entry of amendments canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. It is believed that the present Amendment places the claims in condition for allowance without requiring any further search and/or consideration. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the present Amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Claims 1-15 and 17-24 are pending, but Claims 1-9, 13, and 14 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 10 and 15 are amended to further clarify the features contained therein. No new matter is introduced.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,274,887, hereafter “Yamazaki ‘887”); Claims 15 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki ‘887 in view of Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,765,549, hereafter “Yamazaki ‘549”); Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki ‘887 in view of Miyazima (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0171086); and Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki ‘887, Yamazaki ‘549 and Miyazima.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 10 and 12 as being anticipated by Yamazaki ‘887, Claim 10 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, an EL display apparatus that includes:

a cathode supply line that applies a cathode voltage and is formed on the substrate and located under the source driver IC...

...a cathode wiring that branches from the common cathode line and is configured to apply the cathode voltage to the pixels in the display area, wherein

a potential of the cathode supply line is applied to both ends of the common cathode line,

a current is applied to the EL elements via the cathode wiring, and

the cathode voltage varies based on an output from a temperature sensor. (Emphasis added.)

Turning to the primary reference, Yamazaki '887 describes an active matrix type liquid crystal display including thin film transistors (TFT).¹ In one embodiment, Yamazaki '887 describes that a gate wiring (5003a) is connected to switching TFT (5002), which, in turn, is connected to a capacitor (5004) and a current-control (TFT) (5005) that drives an EL device (5007).²

The outstanding Office Action appears to identify the gate wiring (5003a) described in Yamazaki '887 as corresponding to the claimed cathode supply line.³ However, Yamazaki '887 does not describe that the gate wiring (5003a) is connected to the cathode of the EL device (5007) or that the gate wiring (5003a) is formed under the current-control (TFT) (5005). Instead, Yamazaki '887 clearly illustrates that the gate wiring (5003a) is connected to the gate of the switching TFT (5002), not the cathode of the EL device (5007).⁴ Further, Yamazaki '887 describes that the gate wiring (5003a) is parallel to a current supply line (5008), but does not describe the relative locations of the gate wiring (5003a) or the current supply line (5008) with respect to the current-control TFT (5005). As such, Yamazaki '887 fails to disclose or suggest a cathode supply line *that applies a cathode voltage and is formed*

¹ Yamazaki '887 at column 1, lines 5-25.

² Yamazaki '887 at column 34, lines 29-65; see also Figure 29C.

³ See the outstanding Office Action at page 3.

⁴ See Fig. 29C of Yamazaki '887.

on the substrate and located under the source driver IC as recited in amended Claim 10.

Accordingly, amended Claim 10 is believed to be in condition for allowance, together with its corresponding dependent claims.

In addition, Claim 10 is amended to recite that the cathode voltage varies based on an output from a temperature sensor. Yamazaki '887, however, is completely silent regarding temperature sensing or varying the cathode voltage based on the sensed temperature. As such, amended Claim 10, and the claims depending therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance for this additional reason. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 15 and 18-24 as being unpatentable over Yamazaki '887 and Yamazaki '549, Claim 15 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, an EL display apparatus that includes:

- an anode supply line that applies an anode voltage and is formed on the substrate and located under the source driver IC;

- an anode wiring that branches from the common anode line and is configured to apply the anode voltage to the pixels in the display area, wherein

- a potential of the anode supply line is applied to both ends of the common anode line,

- a current is applied to the EL elements via the anode wiring, and

- the anode supply line and another voltage supply line are arranged facing each other, between which an insulating film is placed, to constitute a capacitor.

As noted above, Yamazaki '887 generally describes an active matrix liquid crystal display. However, as acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action, Yamazaki '887 fails to

disclose the claimed anode supply line.⁵ To remedy this deficiency, the outstanding Office Action combines Yamazaki '887 with Yamazaki '549.

Yamazaki '549 describes an EL display that minimizes charge leakage through switching TFTs to prevent a decrease in the brightness of the EL elements.⁶ In one embodiment, Yamazaki '549 illustrates EL elements (1205, 1215) respectively connected to driving TFTs (1204, 1214) whose gates are connected to switching TFTs (1201, 1211) via SRAM memories (1208, 1218).⁷ Yamazaki '549 also describes that the switching TFTs (1201, 1211) are connected to source signal lines (1203) to receive digital data.⁸

The outstanding Office Action identifies the source signal lines (1203) as corresponding to the claimed anode supply line. However, Yamazaki '549 does not describe that the source signal lines (1203) provide an anode voltage to the EL elements (1205, 1215). Instead, Yamazaki '549 merely describes source signal lines (1203, 1204) as providing digital data to the SRAM memories (1208, 1218).⁹ In fact, though Yamazaki '549 describes that the EL elements (1205, 1215) include an anode and a cathode, Yamazaki '549 does not describe how the anode and cathode of the EL elements (1205, 1215) are connected in the pixel circuits (1200, 1210), much less that the anode of the EL elements (1205, 1215) are connected to the driving TFTs (1204, 1214).¹⁰ Further, nowhere does Yamazaki '549 describe that the source signal lines (1203, 1204) are arranged to face a voltage supply line with an insulating film therebetween to create a capacitor. Conversely, amended Claim 15 recites an anode supply line that applies an anode voltage, where the anode supply line and another voltage supply line are arranged facing each other, between which an insulating film is placed, to constitute a capacitor. Therefore, Yamazaki '549 does not disclose or suggest

⁵ See the outstanding Office Action at page 5.

⁶ Yamazaki '549 at column 4, lines 8-13.

⁷ Yamazaki '549 at column 17, lines 18-35; see also Figure 8A.

⁸ Id.

⁹ Yamazaki '549 at column 17, lines 18-35.

¹⁰ Yamazaki '549 at column 17, lines 50-62.

the claimed anode supply line, and does not cure the above-noted deficiencies in Yamazaki '887. As such, no combination of Yamazaki '887 and Yamazaki '549 describes every feature recited in amended Claim 15, and amended Claim 15 is believed to be in condition for allowance, together with any claim depending therefrom. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 15 and 18-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

As all other rejections of record rely upon Yamazaki '887 for describing the above-distinguished features, and the above-distinguished features are not disclosed or suggested by Yamazaki '887, alone or in combination with any other art of record, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 10-12, 15, and 17-24 is earnestly solicited.

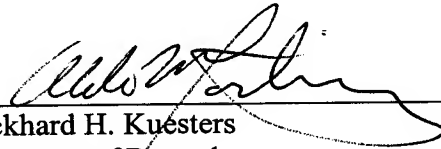
Should, however, the above distinctions be found unpersuasive, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an explanation via Advisory Action under MPEP § 714.13 specifically rebutting the points raised herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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